

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Czechoslovak Minister of Finance, Julius Duris, is a mere political figurehead. He does not know anything about finance and tries to behave with a political grandeur which does not fit the financial sphere. Thus, at the beginning of May he declared: "The West is facing economic collapse; it needs trade with us at any cost and we are in a position to dictate the terms".
2. The First Deputy Minister, Eng. Bohumil Sucharda, usually deputizes for Minister Duris. He is a very efficient specialist who manages the whole Ministry on instructions of the Soviet experts.
3. The shortage of new currency is acute. The Ministry of Finance tries to remedy this by numerous instructions. One of them orders settlements between state concerns to be made by checks. Annual fairs are being organized in villages and small towns to induce people to spend more, as it is the opinion of the Ministry that country people are hoarding money instead of putting it into savings institutions or spending it in shops.

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